

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /080 W

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R 071501Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4437

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USUN NEW YORK 1228

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, WA, AO, SF

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: BUFFER ZONE ANNOUNCED ALONG OWAMBO-  
ANGOLA BORDER

REFERENCE: 75 PRETORIA 4257

1. JANNIE DE WET, COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR THE INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES OF SWA, ANNOUNCED MAY 7 THAT AN "UNPOPULATED"  
KILOMETER-WIDE SECURITY ZONE WILL BE ESTABLISHED ALONG  
OWANBO'S BORDER WITH ANGOLA. SPEAKING TO THE OWAMBO  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN ONGWEDIVA, DE WET SAID THAT  
ALL PEOPLE LIVING IN THE ZONE WOULD BE ASKED TO MOVE. DE  
WET WAS REPLYING TO A MOTION OF OWAMBO CHIEF MINISTER  
KORNELIUS NDJOBA WHO REQUESTED THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO END  
THE ATTACKS IN THE HOMELAND WHICH REPORTEDLY HAVE  
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ORIGINATED FROM ACROSS THE BORDER.

2. THE QUESTION OF A SECURITY ZONE WAS FIRST OFFICIALLY RAISED BY THE OWAMBO CABINET IN LATE 1975 (REFTEL) AND LED TO SOME HEDGING BY SWA AND SAG OFFICIALS ABOUT IF, HOW, AND WHEN REMOVALS WOULD TAKE PLACE. IN A FAIRLY RECENT STATEMENT DE WET, IN FACT, SAID NO SUCH ZONE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BECAUSE OF THE DISLOCATION AND EXPENSE IT WOULD INVOLVE. IN THE MAY 6 STATEMENT, HOWEVER, HE SAID PEOPLE TO BE MOVED WILL RECEIVE COMPENSATION AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.

3. COMMENT: DETAILS OF SECURITY ZONE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT IT APPEARS THAT IT WILL BE ESTABLISHED ONLY IN OWANBO, WHERE GUERRILLA ACTIVITY HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE FAIRLY REGULARLY. FYI. REPORTS INDICAT THAT SINCE AUGUST 1975, AT LEAST 17 OVAMBOS HAVE BEEN KILLED, 21 PERSONS ABDUCTED, AND 10 SHOPS ROBBED IN THE TERRITORY. END FYI. WITHOUT FURTHER INFORMATION IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY PEOPLE MAY BE MOVED, BUT EARLIER ESTIMATES PUT THE NUMBER BETWEEN TEN AND TWENTY THOUSAND. THE AREA ALONG MUCH OF THE BORDER IS FAIRLY DENSELY POPULATED, AND REMOVALS WILL HAVE TO BE DONE VERY CAREFULLY IF OPEN RESISTANCE IS TO BE AVOIDED.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 07 MAY 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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